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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 9, 2019

Emily Maxwell, Marcelle Fressineau scratch at Iditarod checkpoint

Anchorage, Alaska — Veteran Iditarod mushers Emily Maxwell (bib #18) of Iowa City, Iowa, and Marcelle Fressineau (bib #27) of Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, Canada, scratched today at 12 p.m. and 12:03 p.m. respectively at the Iditarod checkpoint.

Both made the decision to scratch due to the welfare of their race teams, which are their No. 1 priority.

A welfare check was requested upon Maxwell engaging her emergency locator transmitter, along with receiving reports from passing teams and noticing that Maxwell and Fressineau were stopped on the GPS tracker. At the direction of the Iditarod Trail Committee, veteran Iditarod musher Andy Pohl and Non-stop dogwear CEO Kale Casey, who were following the race by snowmachine, were asked to go out and perform a welfare check on both Maxwell and Fressineau around 9 a.m. Pohl and Casey, who came to the aide of the two mushers, brought along additional supplies for the teams and followed the teams to the Iditarod checkpoint, where they scratched upon arrival.

“We’d like to thank both Andy and Kale for their assistance today,” said Iditarod race marshal Mark Nordman. “The support and zero hesitation of race enthusiasts to step in and help at a moment’s notice is just one example of why we love the community that this race is so well known for.”

Maxwell had nine dogs in harness at the time she made the decision to scratch. Fressineau had 11 dogs in harness at the time she made the decision to scratch.

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